

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the amendment and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment is provided for example in Applicants' Fig. 1. (It should be noted that references herein to the specification and drawings are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the referenced embodiments.)

Claims 9-15 and 18-29 stand withdrawn as being directed toward non-elected subject matter.

Claims 1-8, 16, and 17 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Komiya et al. (2002/0042035). To the extent the rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims, the Applicants respectfully traverse as follows.

Claim 1 now defines a hydrogen generator including, *inter alia*, a tubular water evaporator including: (1) a first tubular wall element as an inner wall thereof, (2) a second tubular wall element as an outer wall thereof, and (3) water and feed-gas inlets provided to the second tubular wall element.

The Office Action proposes that Komiya's pre-heat layer 51a corresponds to the Applicants' claimed water evaporator (see Office Action page 3, lines 1 and 6-10).

Although Komiya's pre-heat layer 51a similarly has a first tubular wall element 61 as an inner wall thereof and a second tubular wall element 62 as an outer wall thereof, Komiya's second (i.e., outer) tubular wall element 62 does not have water and feed-gas inlets provided thereto, as is acknowledged by the Office Action (see Office Action section 2, lines 1-3).

Although the Office Action proposes that Komiya's tubular wall element 68 is an outer wall and has water and feed gas inlets provided thereto (see section 2, lines 3-4), it is submitted that Komiya's tubular wall element 68 is not an outer wall of pre-heat layer 51a.

Thus, Komiya does not disclose the Applicants' claimed subject matter of a tubular water evaporator having the combined features of: (1) a first tubular wall element as an inner wall thereof, (2) a second tubular wall element as an outer wall thereof, and (3) water and feed-gas inlets provided to the second tubular wall element.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Komiya does not disclose all of the subject matter of claim 1 and, as a result, does not anticipate claim 1. Therefore, allowance of claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

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